

Message Text

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P 250052Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019482

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. FORMER FSI UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR CLAIMS TO HAVE
SEEN RECENT ARTICLE IN KIEV DAILY "VECHERNIY KIYIV" CRITICAL
OF ROBIN PORTER. ARTICLE ACCUSED ROBIN OF "CARRYING OUT A
POLICY OF UKRAINIAN NATIONALISM AND SEPARATISM". NO
FURTHER DETAILS.

2. I WILL BE ESCORTING PONOMOREV AND CO. ON THEIR OUT-OF-
WASHINGTON TOUR AND WILL SHOOT FOR A CABLE REPORT ON THE
WASHINGTON PHASE OF THE VISIT BEFORE DEPARTING THURSDAY
EVENING.

3. RE MOSCOW 933 ON WORLD OCEANS AGREEMENT USE OF TELEX,
NOAA RECENTLY AT LEAST HAS NOT BEEN FAR OUT OF LINE.
MARTINEAU'S RESPONSE TO METALNIKOV TELEX WAS SENT TO US FOR
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TRANSMISSION THROUGH EMBASSY BEFORE MOSCOW 805 ARRIVED; I.E.
NOAA IN THIS CASE USED OUR CHANNEL ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE.
WITH RESPECT TO TWO DISASTROUS CASES LAST YEAR, SOV OFFICER
WAS PRESENT AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF WORKING GROUP CHAIRMEN
AT WHICH MARTINEAU STRESSED NEED FOR COORDINATION AND AT
ONE POINT SINGLED OUT WORST OFFENDER FOR PERSONAL CRITICISM.

NOAA'S NICK PRAHL SAID HE DIDN'T THINK METALNIKOV WOULD BE EASILY DISSUADED FROM USE OF TELEX, BUT NOAA SUPPORTED EMBASSY AND THOUGHT EMBASSY MIGHT USE FACT OF MARTINEAU'S RESPONSE VIA PROPER CHANNELS AS EXAMPLE OF BETTER WAY TO DO THINGS. DESPITE HOPEFUL SIGNS, HOWEVER, NOAA'S OPERATION IS FAR FROM WELL-COORDINATED--PERSONNEL SHIFTS, RELATIVE INACCESSIBILITY OF SOME LEADERS AND MOMENTUM OF INDEPENDENT WORKING GROUPS WORK AGAINST SMOOTH FUNCTIONING. WE WILL DO OUR BEST.

4. RE YOUR PLANNED FRANKFURT TRIP, THE AMBASSADOR IS OUT OF REACH UNTIL WEDNESDAY EVENING. WILL CALL HIM THEN AND CABLE IMMEDIATELY.

5. WE HAVE RECEIVED A CONGRESSIONAL FROM SPEAKER O'NEILL ON BEHALF OF A FRIEND OF IREX STUDENT CHRISTA WALCK, WHO ALLEGES THAT HER WORK IS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY "CUT-OFF" OF PARCEL PRIVILEGES. SUBJECT TO YOUR CONCURRENCE, WE PROPOSE TO RESPOND TO SPECIFICS RAISED BY CONSTITUENT AS FOLLOWS:

-- USE OF OFFICIAL CHANNELS OUTSIDE INTERNATIONAL MAIL IS UNUSUAL PRIVILEGE AND MUST BE REGULATED;

-- SUPPORT FOR IREXERS CONTINUES AND MS. WALCK MUST HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD SITUATION (WE WOULD ENCLOSE COPY OF EMBASSY CONFIDENTIAL

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INSTRUCTION);

-- LETTERS TRANSMITTED ARE NOT READ BY EMBASSY PEOPLE, BUT EMBASSY TAKES RESPONSIBILITY AND HAS CURSORY INSPECTION PROCEDURE, TO ASSURE THAT PACKAGES AND ENVELOPES DO NOT CONTAIN UNAUTHORIZED MATERIAL, NOTING POSTAL AIRGRAM EXCEPTIONS;AND ?

-- AUTHORIZED MATERIAL MAILED FROM US BEFORE ISSUANCE OF INSTRUCTION WILL BE FORWARDED TO RECIPIENTS (WALCK CONCERNED THAT PACKAGES EN ROUTE AND DELAYED BY LONGSHOREMEN'S STRIKE WILL BE RETURNED BY EMBASSY TO SENDER). PLEASE ADVISE.

6. BILL EDGAR DESCRIBED THE EMBASSY'S SPACE PROBLEMS TO REGGIE BOURDON, WHO SAID THERE WAS NO REASON TO EXPECT THE MARITIME DELEGATION WOULD MAKE ANY DIFFICULT DEMANDS. INCLUSION OF AN EMBASSY OFFICER IS DESIGNED TO ENSURE A STATE DEPARTMENT PRESENCE IN THESE INFORMAL TALKS, AND TO GIVE EMBASSY A CHANCE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE OCCIDENTAL FERTILIZER PROJECT (THE MAIN FOCUS OF THE DISCUSSIONS). BEYOND THAT, RELIANCE ON EMBASSY RESOURCES IS LIKELY TO BE

MINIMAL.

7. YOU WILL HAVE RECEIVED OUR MESSAGE ON ACCEPTING THE
SOVIET INVITATION TO THE "BEREZINA" EXERCISE. RE PARA
2, WE INFORMED THE NSC THAT THERE ARE NO TRANSIENT
QUARTERS AVAILABLE FOR BILL ODOM. THE ALTERNATIVE HE HAD
IN MIND WAS TO BE PUT UP BY ONE OF THE ATTACHES, IF IT CAN
BE DONE WITH A MINIMUM OF INCONVENIENCE. VANCE

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